



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

BAD MAC & CHEESE

U.S. food giant Kraft has recalled 6.5 million boxes of macaroni and cheese after consumers reported finding metal fragments in some containers. The recall applies to boxes sold in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and some Caribbean and South American countries. (BBC News)

BAD NEWS FOR BEES

"The acacia tree in my yard usually is swarming with honeybees. This year? ZERO! Same thing with my lemon tree," reports Scott McKellar of Linda Mar Heights. Find out why this is happening: Google "colony collapse disorder" and read about the fate of pollinated food crops if this crisis worsens. Not only honey but all kinds of fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, and other crops will disappear along with the honeybees that are essential for pollination. Not to mention how cute they are!

MOST EXCELLENT HAIKU

I am an error
And I will reveal myself
After you press SEND.
(Arika Okrent)

NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

Even if you have done this before, experts say you should re-register at least once a year and anytime you change phone numbers or email addresses. Go to donotcall.gov and sign up.

SHAKEN, STIRRED, OR SNORTED

Powder to the People! Aptly named reporter Tripp Mickle wrote in the Wall Street Journal on March 12 that the federal government has approved the sale of powdered alcohol in the United States this summer. The dry booze is called Palcohol, which can be mixed

with water for an instant beverage. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says it doesn't have any concerns about the safety or legality of Palcohol, but it could be a different story on the state level. Several states already plan to ban powdered alcohol. Palcohol will introduce several varieties: rum, vodka, Powderita (margarita), Cosmopolitan, and Lemon Drop. The powders come in foil pouches and make six-ounce drinks. Palcohol critics worry the powder will be abused by being sprinkled on food, snorted, or used to spike cocktails. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) fears Palcohol could become "the Kool-Aid of teen binge drinking." Palcohol's founder Mark Phillips made a YouTube video defending his product and calling criticism "completely false." He says he created the product because he likes to hike and backpack, then "have a drink when I get to my destination." Palcohol has previously advised users not to cook with the powder because the alcohol burns off, and not to snort the product because "you would feel all pain for little gain." Phillips also wrote a book called *Swallow This: The Progressive Approach to Wine*, and hosted a PBS show on wine tasting.

DROUGHTBUSTER

Speaking of drinking alcohol, here is some good advice from Tom Clifford, posted on PacificaRiptide.com: "I intend to drink only imported beer & wine. It may not have any impact on the drought, but I will worry less."

SWAMI SEZ

"If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried."

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